

Message Text

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PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEA-02

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 SWF-02 OMB-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 OIC-04

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS UN, EFIN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON UN SPECIAL MEASURES PROGRAM

GENEVA PASS ECOSOC DEL

1. SUMMARY OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY SIDNEY DELL ON BEHALF OF
PREBISCH, SYG SPECIAL REP FOR THE EMERGENCY APPEAL ON BEHALF
OF NEEDIEST COUNTRIES, FOLLOWS.

THE OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. DELL FOLLOWS:

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS ENCOURAGED BY THE PROSPECTS FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY OPERATION THAT
WERE REVEALED AT HIS MEETING WITH CONTRIBUTORS AND POTENTIAL
CONTRIBUTORS ON MONDAY, 15 JULY.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD INVITED ALL THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO
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WHICH HIS APPEAL OF 9 MAY HAD BEEN ADDRESSED TO MEET WITH

HIM TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE EMERGENCY OPERATION LAUNCHED BY THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTION 3202 (S-VI). IN ADDITION TO THESE PARTICIPANTS, THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH HAD INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EMERGENCY OPERATION EVEN THOUGH IT HAD NOT BEEN A RECIPIENT OF THE APPEAL OF 9 MAY, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC).

AT THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MR. ROBERT S. MCNAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK, MR. RUDOLPH A. PETERSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, AND MR. H. JOHANNES WITTEVEEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL OF 9 MAY, TWENTY-THREE COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY) HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE EITHER ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT CRISIS, OR THAT THEY INTEND TO DO SO. TAKEN TOGETHER, AND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PRECONDITIONS ENVISAGED BY CERTAIN CONTRIBUTORS, NOTABLY AS REGARDS ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS, ARE REALIZED, IT APPEARS THAT PLEDGES OR EXPECTATIONS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY INDICATED BY GOVERNMENTS AMOUNT TO A SUM IN EXCESS OF \$1 BILLION. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING BEGINNING TOWARDS THE GOAL OF A \$3 TO \$4 BILLION PROGRAMME OVER THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS WHICH HAS BEEN SET AS THE TARGET FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATION BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DR. RAUL PREBISCH, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE FAO, THE IMF, UNCTAD, THE UNDP AND THE WORLD BANK. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT SEVERAL MAJOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS HAVE INDICATED AN INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMERGENCY OPERATION, BUT HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THE PRECISE EXTENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION; CONTRIBUTIONS BY THESE COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO BRING THE TOTAL APPRECIABLY CLOSER TO THE TARGET WHICH HAS BEEN SET. THE TEXTS OF GOVERNMENT REPLIES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE PRESS RELEASES LISTED AT THE END OF THIS STATEMENT.

AFTER REVIEWING THE PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EMERGENCY OPERATION, THE MEETING OF 15 JULY DISCUSSED THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONVENE A FURTHER MEETING OF CONTRIBUTORS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING SEPTEMBER. THIS MEETING

WOULD REVIEW THE FURTHER PROGRESS OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATION IN THE LIGHT OF AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS, AND WOULD SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ALL COUNTRIES AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MADE CONDITIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

IT ALSO BECAME CLEAR AT THE MEETING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH A MONITORING SYSTEM TO RECORD, ON A STANDARD BASIS, THE VARIOUS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FLOWS OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THAT ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. ACCORDINGLY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL ESTABLISH SUCH A SYSTEM, AND HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS ENTERING INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WITH A VIEW TO SETTING UP A STANDARD SYSTEM OF REPORTING.

SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE EFFORT TO MOBILIZE THE REQUISITE RESOURCES, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS INITIATED STUDIES OF THE NEEDS OF THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE FAO, THE IMF, UNCTAD, THE UNDP AND THE WORLD BANK. ON 28 MAY 1974 THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SENT A QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THOSE THAT HAD RECEIVED THE APPEAL OF 9 MAY SO AS TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS OF THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES.

THESE STUDIES ARE NOT YET COMPLETE. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, REACHED THE STAGE AT WHICH IT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO INDICATE WHICH COUNTRIES ARE AMONGST THOSE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. THESE COUNTRIES WILL BE LISTED IN A SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE.

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HOPES THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE WILL TAKE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACTION TO PREVENT HUNGER AND ECONOMIC DISLOCATION IN THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES. HE HOPES THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE MADE UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE WILL GIVE EFFECT TO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, WHETHER BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT A BEGINNING MAY BE MADE IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES. EVEN IN THE CASE OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MADE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS DEPENDENT ON THE EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HOPES THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE OVERALL EFFORT ALREADY INDICATED AT THE MEETING OF 15 JULY WILL PROMPT CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED OF THE QUESTION WHETHER THEY COULD MAKE AN IMMEDIATE ADVANCE AGAINST THEIR ULTIMATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD -

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HE MADE THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS -

MULTILATERAL VS. BILATERAL AID - IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO BREAK DOWN THE TWO. THE \$100,000,000 OFFERED BY VENEZUELA IS TO BE MULTI-LATERAL; THE SPECIAL FUND NOT YET IN EXISTENCE WILL DATE FROM THE FIRST OF NEXT YEAR. THESE ARE TWO SEPARATE OPERATIONS LINKED IN PURPOSE - 1) EMERGENCY OPERATION IS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE NEXT 12 MONTHS; 2) LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE REST OF THE DECADE ANOTHER SPECIAL FUND WOULD BE SET UP TO TAKE CARE OF MEDIUM AND LONG TERM REQUIREMENTS - BUT THIS IS NOT YET SET UP.

THE FACT THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES REACTED BEFORE THE SIXTH SPECIAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS LAST APRIL TO HELP NEEDY COUNTRIES DOES NOT RULE THESE DONOR COUNTRIES OUT FROM CONTRIBUTING AGAIN. A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS OPEC COUNTRIES TOOK STEPS TO EASE THE PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EVEN BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN THE TWO KINDS

OF CONTRIBUTIONS FURTHER BY DISCUSSING WHAT HE CALLED "ADDITIONALITY" - THOSE KIND OF PROJECTS WHERE FACTORIES ARE TO BE BUILT; TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE GIVEN; POWER FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED, THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE PLANNED WAY AHEAD ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM BUT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT, COMMODITY, FOOD, FERTILIZER AID HAVE BEEN DECIDED UPON AS ADDITIONAL NEEDS.

THE VENEZUELA CONTRIBUTION WILL BE PUT TO WORK AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED.

DONOR COUNTRY MEETING WITH WALDHEIM LAST MONDAY - THE MEETING DID NOT RESULT IN ANY NEW ACTIONS, BUT THE 23 PRESS RELEASES SO FAR PUT OUT ANNOUNCING COUNTRY INTENTIONS MOUNT UP TO AN IMPRESSIVE CONTRIBUTION. THE SG WOULD STILL LIKE TO OBTAIN MORE ASSISTANCE BOTH FROM OPEC AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES.

ONE OR TWO OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAVE NOT SAID A WORD YET ABOUT WHAT THEY INTEND TO GIVE, AND THIS IS ONE REASON FOR THE SCHEDULED MINISTERIAL MEETING CALLED BY THE SG FOR SEPTEMBER TO FINALIZE THE MATTER AND GET COMMITMENTS FROM ALL SIDES. (IN AN ASIDE TO A CORRESPONDENT, DELL SAID ONE CAN GUESS WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE.

MONITORING SYSTEM - THE PERIODIC REPORTING SYSTEM OF WHAT WHO IS GIVING TO WHOM, HE SAID, WILL BE VERY HELPFUL. IT IS TOO UNCOORDINATED IF EACH COUNTRY GIVES ON ITS OWN WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT OTHERS GIVE.

SG'S QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE NEEDIEST COUNTRIES - ONLY FOUR REPLIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE NEEDIEST COUNTRIES SO FAR AS TO THEIR NEEDS, BUT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN ESTIMATED CAREFULLY FOR A LONG TIME AS THREE TO FOUR BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. A LIST OF THE NEEDS OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES WILL BE PUT OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT WON'T NECESSARILY REFLECT WHAT THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS ARE. ALL THE DATA WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED VERY CAREFULLY - FROM BOTH DONOR AND NEEDY - BEFORE A TRULY ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS ARE.

GENERAL REPORT ON MONDAY MEETING - THE SG MADE HIS STATEMENT AS DID OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES; THERE WERE ONE OR TWO CRITICISMS - GROUPS ATTACKED EACH OTHER - THE QUESTION OF BURDEN SHARING IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT, MR. DELL OBSERVED. ONLY THE FRINGES OF THE PROBLEM WERE TOUCHED ON AND THAT IS WHY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS SO IMPORTANT. THE EEC TAKES THE POSITION THAT THE BURDEN MUST BE SHARED BETWEEN OIL

PRODUCING AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ON A 50-50 BASIS, AND THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, ONE OIL COUNTRY, MR. DELL REPORTED, REFERRED RATHER TO A TWO TO ONE RATIO.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - THERE IS NO CLEAR DEFINITION OF THE RELATIONS AS OF NOW BETWEEN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FUND SET UP BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SG'S EMERGENCY APPEAL. DELL WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE DIDN'T DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SG APPEAL.
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